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February 20, 2001

Joel K. Bladow
Regional Manager
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80539-3003

Re: Platte River Power Authority Boyd-Valley Segment of the Flatiron-Weld
Transmission Line

Dear Mr. Bladow:

This office has reviewed your correspondence of February 9, 2001 and the cultural resource report prepared for the project listed above.

We concur that sites SLR9946 and SLR9887 are not eligible to the National Register. SLR9946 has lost its integrity and SLR9887 will yield no further information important to history.

SLR1729.2 was determined eligible on November 19, 1993. We concur that this segment contributes to the eligibility of the ditch.

We find that SLR9888, the Burlington Northern Railroad, is eligible to the National Register. Even though this line has been maintained and upgraded, it retains enough of its integrity to make it eligible.

We concur that no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking.

If we may be of further assistance please contact Jim Green at 303-866-4674.

Sincerely,

Georgianna Contiguglia

Georgianna Contiguglia
State Historic Preservation Officer

GC/WJG

MAR 22 2001

SPECIAL DELIVERY-CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. LeRoy Carlson
Colorado State Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services, Colorado Field Office
P.O. Box 25486 DFC
Denver, CO 80225-0207

Subject: **Determination of "not likely to adversely affect" Endangered, Threatened or Sensitive Species or Critical Habitats for the Boyd-Valley 115-kV Upgrade Project.**

Dear Mr. Carlson:

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) has evaluated the effects of a rebuild and upgrade of a two-mile segment of the Boyd-Valley 115-kilovolt transmission line. The existing wood pole H-frame transmission line connects Platte River Power Authority's (Platte River) Valley and Boyd substations on the southeast side of Loveland, Colorado. The transmission line is owned and operated by Western, but will be rebuilt by Platte River.

In evaluating the effects of the proposed project, Western used a list of threatened and endangered species, which was provided, by your office on November 1, 2000. Western evaluated the effects of the proposed action on the following listed and candidate plant and animal species:

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
Mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*)
Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)
Black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)
Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*)
Swift fox (*Vulpes velox*)
Colorado butterflyweed (*Gaura neomexicana* spp. *coloradensis*)
Ute's ladies tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*)

Based on the findings of the enclosed biological assessment, Western, as the lead Federal agency, has determined that the proposed action is "not likely to adversely affect" any listed or proposed species or critical habitat.